



Gold Butte Herd Management Area

Clark County, Nevada



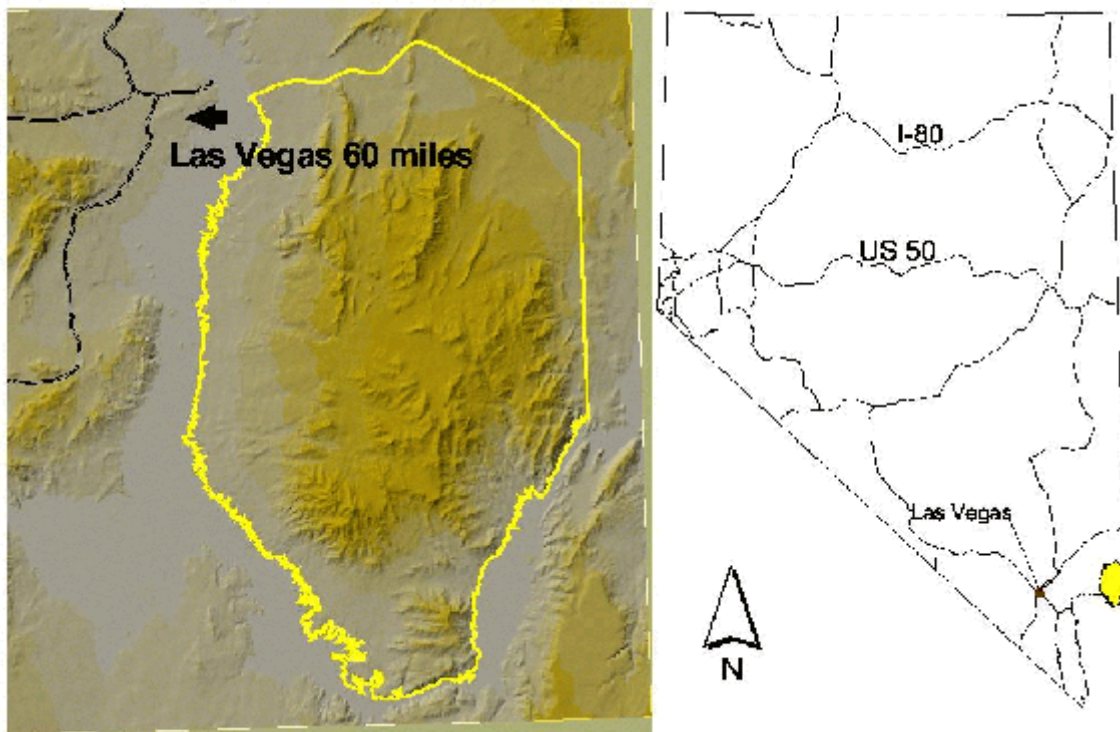
Location/Habitat

The Gold Butte Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in south-central Nevada in Clark County. The Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas Field Office, and the U.S. National Park Service have joint administrative responsibilities for wild burro management on these public lands.

The primary use area within the HMA is characterized as "high" desert surrounded by low, rocky desert mountains. Lake Mead comprises over half of its boundary. The burros share the area with desert mule deer, coyotes, fox and mountain lions, as well as many species of small wildlife. Birds include rare prairie falcons, ravens, quail, starlings, horned larks and many more. Reptiles include many species of lizards and both poisonous (rattlesnakes) and non-poisonous snakes.

Permanent water sources consist of springs found in the area and Lake Mead. The animals, at times, have to travel up to ten miles to and from water each day during the drier part of the year. Burros drink water at least once each day during the hotter part of the year, but can survive by drinking every second day during the winter and early spring.

Climate in the area is quite harsh with winter temperatures falling below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and summer temperatures reaching over 100 degrees. Rainfall averages only 4 to 5 inches per year, divided almost equally between summer and winter. Summer rains are localized, short, and very intense while winter and spring rains are less intense and occur over a wider area.



Vegetation

Vegetation in the HMA is typical Mojave desert shrub; low growing and able to survive long periods of drought. The vegetation consists of salt-tolerant plants such as saltbush, greasewood and rabbitbrush, with grasses such as galleta grass and Indian ricegrass. The mountains contain pinyon-pine and juniper trees with an understory of sagebrush, other mountain shrubs and small amounts of grass.

Herd Description

Approximately 50 burros and horses are found in this area, with all colors and types, represented.